

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Capitol Annex, Room 204

Boise, Idaho

May 9, 2008

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by President Pro Tem Robert Geddes. Members of the Legislative Council in attendance were Speaker Lawrence Denney, Senators Bart Davis, Patti Anne Lodge, John McGee, Clint Stennett, David Langhorst and Kate Kelly; and Representatives Mike Moyle, Gary Collins, Eric Anderson, Wendy Jaquet and Anne Pasley-Stuart. Representative Nicole LeFavour was absent and excused.

Also in attendance or participating in the meeting were Senator Joe Stegner; Representative Scott Bedke; Jan Frew, Division of Public Works; Peter Morrill and Jeff Tucker, Idaho Public Television; Bonnie Alexander, Sue Frieders and Terri Franks-Smith, House staff; Mary Sue Jones, Senate staff; and Rakesh Mohan, Office of Performance Evaluations. Legislative Services Office staff in attendance included Jeff Youtz, Sheila Ison, Glenn Harris, Cathy Holland-Smith, Don Berg, Paige Parker, Norma Clark, Kristin Ford, Matt Freeman, Robyn Lockett, Charmi Arregui, Carol Green and Lisa Kauffman.

The Council deferred approval of minutes from its November 2, 2007, meeting until later in the day to allow members who hadn't done so in advance to review the draft meeting minutes.

Pro Tem Geddes then addressed the Council concerning the loss of two valuable employees of the Legislative Services Office, Research and Legislation Editor Carol Green and Budget and Policy Analysis Administrative Assistant Lisa Kauffman. He read letters commending them for their long and distinguished service to the Legislature.

LSO Director's Report

LSO Director Jeff Youtz reviewed the results of the LSO staff performance survey legislators completed near the end of the 2008 session. Of 105 legislators, a total of 70 completed the survey. The overall grades for the LSO divisions and for the director were in the 90 plus percentile. Pro Tem Geddes said he thought the survey results reflected "pretty sterling marks." He noted how helpful the staff had been in making the transition last spring from the Capitol Building to the Capitol Annex. "I was pleasantly surprised by the smoothness of the relocation." He went on to say he

sincerely appreciates the work of the staff and has noticed an improvement in the quality of staff service during his time in the Legislature.

Information Technology Division Manager Glenn Harris gave the Council an overview of IT during the session and discussed the results of the IT survey completed near the end of the session. Despite the anticipated issues associated with implementing the changes required by the relocation, there were very few problems. The legislative computer network and the new public wireless network were both very reliable. The phone system and new House voting system each operated nearly flawlessly and were extremely well received. The RSS feeds are quickly becoming one of the most popular features of the Legislature's Web site. The online legislative encyclopedia – *Legipedia* – created the means to add attaché-authored contributions to procedural guides, eliminating the need to annually print an attaché computer manual.

In response to a question from Pro Tem Geddes, Mr. Harris said it looked unlikely that legislators would be able to purchase their old laptops. The Advisory Committee on Technology will be meeting in early June to discuss, among other things, the new laptops to be purchased and the disposition of the old laptops. Once these decisions have been made, Mr. Harris will advise legislators regarding how to proceed and what steps to take to ensure information on an old laptop is successfully transferred to a new one.

The Council then discussed House and Senate proclamations. Senator Davis said the practice of the Legislature in passing proclamations is inconsistent with Joint Rule 2, which states, "If a proclamation is passed by the house of origin it shall be sent to the other house for passage where it shall be placed on the floor for action without being referred to a committee." Senator Davis said he didn't have a preference about how to handle proclamations, but thought the Legislature should either modify the rule to follow the practice or comply with the rule the way it is written. He went on to say it would be advantageous to allow for singular proclamations in one body or the other, as well as to provide for joint proclamations. Senator Kelly said she felt strongly that, at a minimum, the rule should reflect the Legislature's practice.

Representative Jaquet moved that a separate rule for each house be drafted and that the original joint rule be kept to allow for both opportunities. Representative Pasley-Stuart seconded the motion. Senator Davis said he agreed with the concept as stated by Representative Jaquet, but thought the joint rule needed some modification to allow specifically for joint proclamations. Representative Jaquet agreed to amend her motion to include the change as described by Senator Davis. Representative Pasley-Stuart then seconded the amended motion. The motion carried unanimously. In response to a request from the Pro Tem, Senator Davis agreed to oversee the rule change from the Senate's perspective; the Speaker said such an assignment for the House would be made at a later time.

The Council briefly discussed end-of-session newsletters and color copies. The mail policy of the House allows for mailing 100 pieces of mail per week, with no big bulk mailings at the end of session. Speaker Denney said, "That takes a lot of pressure off

of our staff.” The Pro Tem said a joint Senate minority and majority leadership decision would be made to bring the Senate policy closer to that of the House.

LSO Director Jeff Youtz noted that links to individual legislator Web sites had increased in number since first being included on the Legislature’s site, and that some of the member sites had more of a campaign focus than a constituent service focus. Because the Legislative Services Office is nonpartisan, he asked if the Council thought it was appropriate to continue including these links. He noted that the site also includes a disclaimer stating, “The links provided are to personal Web sites that are not maintained by the Legislative Services Office. Legislative Services is not responsible for the content of these pages.” Following a brief discussion by Council members, Senator Stennett moved to have staff look into what other states are doing regarding individual member sites and report back to the Council at its fall meeting. Senator McGee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Representative Jaquet asked about the possibility of providing work space in the basement for media during the next session. She noted that a small lounge area within the LSO Copy Room that was allocated to the Senate this session was used very little. Senator Davis said that, with space so lacking in the building, if he was giving that space to anybody, he would give it to senators, not to the press. Senator Lodge said that the basement space also had been used by teachers to give tests to pages at various times during the session and that the news media had used the committee rooms on the first floor where the screens are set up for public viewing.

Representative Jaquet asked if committee minutes and policy regarding recordings of meetings could be considered before the next session. The Pro Tem noted that in the Senate, the committee chairmen are responsible for procedures regarding minutes and that tapes are used solely to assist secretaries in preparing minutes; tapes are not kept. The Speaker said the House policy was much the same as that of the Senate, that once minutes are approved, the tapes are erased or taped over. Pro Tem Geddes said more emphasis should be placed on the importance of minutes in committee chairman training. Speaker Denney concurred.

Representative Jaquet said she would be comfortable with a policy that included a ranking minority member of a committee in final review of minutes for approval. Speaker Denney agreed it was a good idea to have both the chairman of a committee and the ranking minority member review minutes so any questions can be addressed prior to approval of the minutes. Senator Stennett said he thought it would help to delay approval of minutes until the end of meetings so committee members have a better opportunity to review them. Pro Tem Geddes concluded the discussion by saying leadership needed to place greater emphasis on ensuring that minutes take a more significant priority in the process than what has been allowed for many years.

Legislative Statutes: Updates and Revisions

Senator Davis described the charge given to a subcommittee last November to review and update legislative statutes. The subcommittee members, appointed by the Pro Tem and Speaker, were the minority and majority leaders in each house. The consensus bill draft was included in the Council notebooks for review. Representative Jaquet gave

members an overview of the draft, describing general housekeeping and clarification provisions to bring the statute “into the 21st Century.” The most significant change in the statute (Section 7, page 6) regards Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee review of legislative audits and their subsequent public distribution. The draft also includes provisions creating the Legislative Services Office in statute, organizing the functions of LSO more efficiently and in a more defined way under the Legislative Council. Council members can review the draft in detail and the subcommittee may propose additional changes, with the draft scheduled for final review and consideration for recommendation to the full Legislature at the fall Legislative Council meeting.

GEMS Conversion Plan

Mr. Youtz introduced the discussion of the GEMS [Government Electronic Management System] project, saying LSO is ready to convert to the new system after several years of development and very careful testing. GEMS will replace a 30-year-old drafting system that is no longer technically supported. In addition to bill drafting, GEMS will produce all publications, including the House and Senate journals. Final testing will be done May through July. Research and Legislation staff and Budget and Policy Analysis staff will draft numerous bills of all types and run them completely through the process during a mock cyber-session to be conducted in July. The mock session is being designed to fully test the system from draft legislation through final journal production, and LSO staff will work closely with House and Senate staff to ensure the system is thoroughly tested. Following eight weeks of thorough testing in legislative-session mode, staff will meet again in August to discuss the status of the system and to decide whether to go forward with the conversion this year.

In response to a question from Pro Tem Geddes, Mr. Youtz said that, largely in response to feedback from House and Senate staff, the system was designed so House and Senate secretaries will directly input statements of purpose and fiscal notes. Systems Analyst Norma Clark, who is supervising GEMS development, went on to say a screen incorporated in the system would be available to committee secretaries to input the information and assured the Council of the stringent security measures built into the system.

In response to concerns raised by Senator Davis, the Pro Tem confirmed that the process allows a legislator to draft his own statement of purpose, that it simply gives secretaries the job of inputting the draft as written, not of editing it. Senator Davis asked why he as a senator couldn’t have access to input the draft himself. Mrs. Clark said it is possible for legislators to be provided with such access. Senator Stennett said

he had concerns about committee secretaries acting as gatekeepers. In response to a question from Senator Langhorst, Mrs. Clark said tracking any changes made to an SOP was built into the system and would enter the user, date and time. Mr. Youtz said the intent was not to change the fundamental process, just the mechanism to give SOPs a point of access to GEMS.

Pro Tem Geddes recommended giving legislators an opportunity to provide feedback to ensure that the process is appropriate and significantly the same as it was previously. In response to a question from Senator Davis, House Chief Clerk Bonnie Alexander confirmed that the secretary will be responsible for putting the RS and SOP together. She said the change would really be helpful, particularly in the case of SOPs that need to be revised for reprinting; the electronic documents will be easily accessible by those authorized to make entries. Senator Davis indicated he was now more comfortable with that explanation.

Following a short break, the Council reconvened. Senator Davis moved that the minutes of the November 2, 2007, Legislative Council meeting be approved. After a second by Representative Pasley-Stuart, the minutes were approved as written.

Legislative Compensation Committee

Legislative Research Analyst Paige Parker, who is charged with coordinating the Citizens' Committee on Legislative Compensation, reviewed its current membership and told the Council the committee was scheduled to meet in Boise on June 20. He invited Council members to participate in the process by attending the meeting or by submitting their recommendations through him to the committee. He then reviewed the recent history of compensation changes.

Speaker Denney said the per diem rate for legislators who live less than 50 miles from the Statehouse is not keeping up with actual expenses. Senator Davis told the Council he felt it was important to continue to be modest with compensation to help ensure the continuance of a "citizen legislature." Representative Jaquet said benefits such as retirement and health insurance should be included in the table summarizing legislative compensation. Pro Tem Geddes responded that doing so might be problematic as he and some other legislators decline to participate in the state health insurance program. Representative Jaquet suggested looking more closely at such interim expenses as cell phones, fax machines and home printers to see if the unvouchered expense allowance is adequate.

In response to a question from Representative Pasley-Stuart, Mr. Parker said the information to be considered by the Citizens' Committee regarding compensation comes from testimony presented by legislators either in attendance when the committee meets or submitted in writing. Mr. Parker is preparing a state-by-state comparison upon request of the committee, which has also requested the compensation history for Idaho legislators. Representative Jaquet thought it would be helpful for Mr. Parker to conduct a random survey of several senators and representatives to help estimate

legislator expenses for committee consideration. Pro Tem Geddes welcomed Council members to forward their input through Mr. Parker to him and the Speaker to take before the committee.

April General Fund Revenue Update

Manager Cathy Holland-Smith, Budget and Policy Analysis Division, told the Council that the \$537.6 million in revenue collected in April was \$69.8 million more than the forecast. Cumulative FY 2008 revenue through April now is \$47.7 million more than forecast. Mrs. Holland-Smith said Division of Financial Management Economist Mike Ferguson explained that the unexpected increase in revenue was a reflection of the earlier housing and real estate boom from early in calendar year 2007. Mr. Ferguson is anticipating reduced revenues in May and June as revenues reflect the more current economic picture, resulting in total revenues more comparable to the forecast. This is likely to result not in a budget shortfall or a surplus, but in a cumulative revenue figure more reflective of the forecast. An analysis of the FY 2008 budget through April shows the budget is on track to reach an estimated ending balance of \$224.7 million.

Representative Jaquet asked Mrs. Holland-Smith for information regarding health benefits for state retirees. Mrs. Holland-Smith said the increase in cost for medical health insurance for state employees will range from 19 to 21 percent. Dental insurance will increase by about 30 percent. The cost for retirees will rise substantially more. Whether or not retirees are on Medicare, the cost for supplemental state health insurance will increase by about \$150 to \$200 per month. Representative Jaquet asked for more detailed information to help her explain the changes to her constituents, and the Pro Tem asked that the information be provided to all members of the Council. Mrs. Holland-Smith subsequently distributed a memo and table detailing rates for retirees.

Representative Jaquet asked if these increases were coming unilaterally from the Department of Administration. "I'm trying to understand how we as the Legislature might have more involvement." Mrs. Holland-Smith said premium increases are the result of contract negotiations between the Department of Administration (DOA) and insurance carriers; the Legislature is not included in that process. Once the rates are determined, DOA makes adjustments to the state health plan to accommodate available funding and direction from the Governor's Office as to how he wants to see the plan implemented. That traditionally has not been a process they've shared with other agencies or the Legislative Services Office. The Budget and Policy Analysis Division and DFM then get anticipated premium rates from the DOA to include in agency budgets.

Clete Edmunson, in attendance from the Governor's Office, told the Council a letter had just been mailed to all legislators that explained the increases in retiree insurance premiums. He also told the Council the Department of Administration plans to travel to various areas of the state this summer to discuss this issue with legislators and their constituents in detail.

Legislative Audit Division Activity Update

Division Manager Don Berg told the Council his staff had completed 72 reports for the FY 2007 period and planned to conduct another 56 audits for FY 2008. He said Legislative Audit staff would no longer be performing audits of commodity commissions and would conduct local audit reviews only of state government entities that receive federal funds. Beginning in FY 2008, management reviews will focus more on evaluating entity objectives and results. Mr. Berg said one of his goals is to change the process for distributing reports by going paperless; rather than printed copies, electronic audit reports will be posted on the Legislature's Web site, and the Legislative Audit section of the site will be redesigned over the summer to make reports more easily accessible. In conclusion, Mr. Berg told the Council that staff turnover has been greatly reduced over the past 16 months, with only one staff person resigning and one redeployed to the Middle East with the National Guard. Mr. Youtz credited improvements in the division largely to Mr. Berg's collaborative management style, which has provided staff a working environment emphasizing "a career, not just a job."

Office of Performance Evaluations Activity Update

OPE Director Rakesh Mohan described three projects the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee has chosen to undertake in 2008, a study of the Idaho Transportation Department, a study of the feasibility of consolidating school district services, and a study of the school district funding formula. The anticipated release date for these reports is January 2009. Senator Davis questioned why the school district funding formula study was approved, when SCR 122, which would have authorized JLOC to direct the OPE to conduct a study of Idaho's public education funding formula, was not approved during the 2008 session. Pro Tem Geddes asked if undertaking a study in such a manner was essentially going around the Legislature and setting a bad precedent. Rep. Moyle voiced his opinion that a line was being crossed.

At the request of Pro Tem Geddes, Mr. Youtz will prepare a letter to the co-chairs of JLOC expressing the concerns of the Council that this study was approved even though a similar proposal was not approved by the Legislature. Mr. Youtz noted that there is a statutory framework that describes the JLOC project selection process, which could be discussed at the November Council meeting. Mr. Mohan said he would report back to the JLOC co-chairs and asked if OPE should proceed with the study or await further direction from JLOC. Pro Tem Geddes suggested OPE proceed with the study based on the decisions already made by JLOC. Pro Tem Geddes concluded, "I think what we need to do is follow up with this to make sure JLOC understands the concerns discussed here and to see what we can learn."

Interim Study Committees

Pro Tem Geddes noted that SCR 135, which authorizes an interim study of medical education needs in Idaho, is very prescriptive as to who will participate and includes minority and majority leadership. Those who choose not to participate will be asked

to designate another legislator to the committee. The State Board of Education also has designated a subcommittee to evaluate medical education needs. To eliminate duplication and costs, this subcommittee will work closely with the Legislature's interim committee to combine efforts and get the maximum benefit. The Governor also has a health care task force investigating the issue, and Pro Tem Geddes said the Legislature's Medical Education Interim Committee could derive a broader perspective by working with both groups. Former Senator Joyce McRoberts, who is staffing the Governor's task force, has invited the legislative members of the interim committee to accompany her group to visit a medical school in a state demographically similar to Idaho, such as South Dakota or Nevada.

Board of Education Chairman Milford Terrill told the Council his group will consist of four members of the State Board, four physicians and maybe two other people. He would like to hold joint meetings in various regions of the state so everyone looking at the issue can get the same information at the same time.

The other new interim committee, which was authorized by adoption of HCR 45, is charged with studying property tax revenues and expenditures. The resolution calls for a membership of 14 legislators. Council consensus was that the Property Tax Interim Committee be comprised of seven members from each body, five Republicans and two Democrats.

The Council reconvened after a lunch break to consider interim committee appointments. Pro Tem Geddes and Speaker Denney reported on the consensus of the caucuses regarding interim committee membership. The legislative appointments were approved unanimously on a motion by Representative Jaquet, with a second by Senator Kelly. Legislative members of the two interim committees are listed on page 13. Pro Tem Geddes asked Legislative Services Office staff to contact the nonlegislative entities named in the resolution, including universities and associations, to request designation of ex officio members to the Medical Education Interim Committee.

Representative Pasley-Stuart moved that the Council form a task force of members to review issues related to employee/retiree benefits and to report back to the Legislative Council by November. Senator Kelly seconded the motion. Senator Davis made a substitute motion to invite the Department of Administration to provide the entire Council with periodic updates as to what it is doing and to provide the factual calculations that would give Council members a better understanding. In addition, the Council would invite a representative of the Department of Administration to present a formal update at the next meeting of the Council. Senator McGee seconded the substitute motion. Following Council discussion, Speaker Denny made an amended substitute motion to form a task force made up of the entire membership of the Legislative Council to receive information from the Department of Administration and from Legislative Services regarding employee and retiree benefits. After a second by Senator Davis, the amended substitute motion passed unanimously. The Council designated Jeff Youtz to be the official point of contact for the task force.

Reapportionment Update

LSO staff Kristin Ford and Matt Freeman, assigned to support the Citizens' Commission on Reapportionment following the 2010 U.S. Census, presented a timeline of activities. Ms. Ford explained that they will be participating this year in Census Bureau training on new GIS programs, as well as evaluating private vendor GIS products for possible purchase. Another major task this year will be to develop a budget and prepare an appropriation request for FY 2010 in order to purchase necessary GIS products for the project. Ms. Ford and Mr. Freeman will continue testing and training throughout 2009.

“Legislature Live” Pilot Project

General Manager Peter Morrill, Idaho Public Television, presented an overview of the 2008 session's video coverage. Live action video of House and Senate floor action and JFAC meetings was available this year via digital and cable TV, the Web, cell phones, and on monitors in viewing rooms in the Capitol Annex and in the Capitol Mall. Audio transmissions also were available via FM radio. Total requests to view live video streams increased in 2008 to 50,144, up significantly from the 22,774 viewing requests during the 2007 session. Statistics kept by IPTV also show that an equal number of people within the Capitol Mall area and from outside the area are watching the legislative video, representing a 15 percent growth in the number of external viewers over the previous year.

Pro Tem Geddes complimented all of the IPTV staff for the great work done this session. He said people as far away as Soda Springs have told him they watch the Legislature and are grateful for that opportunity. He has also been told how much better the quality of the cameras is this year. Mr. Morrill noted that providing video coverage of the Legislature is really a collaborative effort between IPTV, the Department of Administration and the Legislative Services Office. In response to a question from Senator Geddes, Mr. Morrill said IPTV doesn't have a position on archiving legislative video, but that the practice has been not to archive floor debates. Requests for copies of the final session day's activities were processed through the Legislative Services Office. He said the video system had not been designed with DVD burning in mind as that was not part of the original project scope. Now DVD burners have been installed and all requests for copies during the 2008 session have been processed. If the number of requests for DVDs is expected to increase, Mr. Morrill said paid crew members would have to remain at work later after each day's session. He would appreciate knowing what to expect “sooner rather than later.”

Mr. Youtz noted that the draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Legislative Council and IPTV for the 2009 session contains two items defining the parameters of video archiving and DVD copy requests. The draft will be revised to include language suggested by Senators Davis and Kelly and will then be presented again at the November Council meeting for review. To address legislator concerns, Mr. Youtz said

he would also discuss copyright issues with the Attorney General's Office for possible inclusion in the draft MOU.

Mr. Morrill presented the Council with a proposal for two-camera video coverage of the JFAC hearing room during the 2009 session. The objective would be to see what is sustainable and cost effective regarding video coverage of hearing rooms. The upgraded camera equipment would allow viewers to see committee members as well as presenters in a separate window on the screen. It would cost approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000, and the equipment could be moved from the Annex for continued JFAC use in the renovated Capitol. In response to a question from Senator Davis, Mr. Youtz said there was money available in the relocation budget to purchase the equipment if the Council approved the project. Representative Jaquet noted that the camera would allow presentation materials of presenters, such as PowerPoint slides, to be seen by viewers as well. Representative Jaquet made a motion for the Council to move forward with the project, and Senator Stennett seconded the motion.

Senator McGee said that, although he was going back and forth on this specific motion, he thought anything the Legislature can do to improve access across the state would probably be a good thing. Pro Tem Geddes asked about the availability of less expensive equipment or if IPTV could borrow or rent a camera to see if the Legislature actually liked or would use it. Mr. Morrill said he was unaware of anything like that being available, and Senator McGee told Council members that even if a rental was available, the cost would likely be as much or more than the expense of purchasing a camera.

Mr. Morrill, noting that IPTV has absorbed all personnel and out-of-pocket costs associated with the "Legislative Live" project, called it "a good first step in opening up the legislative process and engaging the people of our state." Senator Stennett voiced his opinion of the importance of letting people know what's going on in this building, saying IPTV has allowed legislative access to people as far away from Boise as Soda Springs and Bonner's Ferry. Mr. Morrill was asked if IPTV would be able to install the equipment in time for the 2009 session if the Council waited to make a decision in the fall. This would allow IPTV more time to explore other possibilities, get more detailed cost information, and then present the information to the Council at its fall meeting. Mr. Morrill said such a time frame would be very difficult, given state bidding and purchasing requirements and the time required for equipment delivery, particularly during the holiday season. Following further discussion, the Council defeated the motion to move forward with the two-camera pilot project for JFAC on a five to four roll-call vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Representative Jaquet and Senators Geddes, McGee and Stennett. Voting against the motion were Senators Davis and Lodge and Representatives Denney, Moyle and Collins.

Capitol Restoration and Expansion Update

Project Manager Jan Frew, Department of Administration, reviewed the status of the Capitol restoration. Construction is progressing very well, the wings are beginning to

look like buildings and have the roofs and concrete decks on both sides, and work is taking place inside both concrete shells. Demolition work is nearly complete and wall framing has begun on the first and fourth floors. Mechanical ductwork, electrical, plumbing and fire protection work are all progressing. Restoration of scagliola is now complete in the House and Senate chambers and is progressing in other areas of the building. Marble cleaning and restoration is continuing in other areas. Sheetrock is being installed on the fourth floor. About 160 people are working on the Capitol site every day. Mrs. Frew reviewed the project's budget, noting that some reallocations had been made in order to stay within the project's \$120 million budget.

Representative Jaquet voiced concern about a local company subcontracting on the project that was subsequently replaced by a company from out of state, and she wondered if there might have been a connection between that and passage of H 445. Mrs. Frew assured her the incident had no connection with H 445, which provides that Chapter 10, Title 44, Idaho Code, does not apply to Capitol Building projects. (Chapter 10, Title 44, requires that 95 percent of workers on most state construction projects be Idaho citizens.) She explained that the subcontractor in question had done an excellent job working on its first subcontract, but during negotiations for subsequent work, had gone into bankruptcy. The principals formed a new company, but Jacobsen Hunt, the construction management firm for the Capitol project, was not comfortable working with a firm with no track record and hired a different subcontractor for finish work.

Representative Jaquet said she thought it was important to have as many Idaho people working on the project as possible. "I would love to leave this money in Idaho rather than having it go back to Utah." Mrs. Frew said that while she shared that concern, it was important that the company to be given the contract have experience with historic furnishings and millwork, and that Jacobsen Hunt chose the subcontractor they felt would do the best work. Representative McGee asked Mrs. Frew to summarize her explanation of this situation in a letter to be distributed to Council members.

Senator Stennett asked what the percentage is of Idaho workers on the Capitol project. Although she didn't have specific numbers, Mrs. Frew estimated that about 80 percent of the workers are from Idaho. She said that of the major contractors now working on the project, the drywall contractor is from Boise and has a large Idaho crew, and the mechanical contractor and subcontractor are both Idaho companies. Although it is a Utah company, the majority of the people Jacobsen Hunt has hired to work on this project are from Idaho. The marble company, which is from Nevada, only has about four people on the site and is trying to recruit workers from this area.

The company hired to repair the scagliola is a large company based in Chicago and New York. The company has sent its lead crew workers here, and they're training local Idaho people so they can do the specialized work. Mrs. Frew assured the Council that Jacobsen Hunt is very aware that the state wants Idaho workers on the project and has made a very good effort to make sure they have local workers.

Pro Tem Geddes asked about the project work schedule. Mrs. Frew said the underground wings are actually a little ahead of schedule. Within the interior of the building, issues affecting the schedule arise on a daily basis. Jacobsen Hunt is about 30 days behind schedule, but its plans to make up those days and complete the project on schedule include opening the building for work from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. They also have crews working on Saturdays and have discussed working longer days with additional crews as daylight hours extend into the evenings during the summer months.

Senator Stegner, co-chair of the Legislative Space Allocation and Design Advisory Committee, pointed out to the Council sample finishings and replicated hardware for the Capitol on display in the meeting room entry. He said one issue that had arisen was the deterioration of historic legislative photos. The Idaho Historical Society recommends digitizing the photos, remounting the copies on new boards and putting them in uniform frames. The original photos would then be archived by the Historical Society. Furnishing options for legislative offices are being considered, and a subcommittee has been appointed to work with Relocation Specialist Robyn Lockett to select uniform furniture.

Pro Tem Geddes said the point has been reached at which new modification and changes to floor plans are impossible for contractors to accommodate; they are cost and time prohibitive. "Walls are being built." Mr. Youtz added that concerns of the Council and the Space Allocation Committee regarding ceiling heights in the wings had been resolved by the architects and contractors. Ceilings in the hearing rooms will be 11 feet high. In the larger, sloped hearing room, the ceiling will slope from 9 feet at the door to 11 feet for the majority of the room and 13 feet at its deepest section. Senator Stegner said the electronic capabilities being included in the building would include WiFi for the public in certain areas. Representative Bedke, co-chair of the Space Allocation Committee, told the Council there had been a lot of discussion about video and electronic displays of agendas. "We'll have some good results from that for the public and also for the members."

Miscellaneous

The Council decided to tentatively schedule its fall meeting on Friday, November 7. The Pro Tem adjourned the formal meeting at 3:30 p.m., and Council members then met for a guided tour of the Capitol Building.

New 2008 Interim Committees

Medical Education Interim Committee

Sen. Robert Geddes	Rep. Lawrence Denney
Sen. Bart Davis	Rep. Fred Wood
Sen. Diane Bilyeu	Rep. John Rusche
Sen. Dean Cameron	Rep. Maxine Bell

Ex Officio Members:

Dr. Tim White, President, University of Idaho
Dr. Art Vailas, President, Idaho State University
Dr. Mark Rudin, Vice President for Research, Boise State University
Ms. Susie Pouliot, CEO, Idaho Medical Association
Mr. Steve Millard, CEO, Idaho Hospital Association
Mr. Milford Terrell, President, State Board of Education
Mrs. Sue Thilo, Secretary, State Board of Education

Staff: Matt Freeman, Maureen Ingram, Charmi Arregui

Property Tax Interim Committee

Sen. Brad Little, Co-chair	Rep. Jim Clark, Co-chairRep.
Sen. Tim Corder	Scott Bedke
Sen. Lee Heinrich	Rep. Lynn Luker
Sen. Jim Hammond	Rep. Raúl Labrador
Sen. Jeff Siddoway	Rep. Frank Henderson
Sen. David Langhorst	Rep. Bill Killen
Sen. Elliot Werk	Rep. George Sayler

Staff: Eric Milstead, Mike Nugent, Charmi Arregui